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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

1. The Soviet Commercial Mission was established in Alexandria, Egypt, in January 1948 for the purpose of supervising the exchange of Egyptian cotton for Russian wheat, in fulfillment of the terms of the Egyptian-Russian trade pact. Unofficially, the mission offices at No. 19 Place Saad Zaghlul, Alexandria, function as a Soviet consulate, and the mission handles all details in connection with the arrival of Soviet ships. Since the expiration of the Egyptian-Russian trade pact in August 1948, the activities of the mission have been confined mainly to contact with various satellite missions. The members of the Soviet Commercial Mission have had close personal and professional relations with the members of the Yugoslav Commercial Mission, whom they visit almost daily. More recently, a close relationship has developed between the Soviets and the Bulgarian commercial representatives, Nicolas Gavrilov and Stoyan Stoyanov.

2. The Soviet Commercial Mission in Alexandria has a staff of four persons, as follows:

- a. Theodor Malakhov, co-director of the mission with M. Spasnikov, who remains in Cairo. Upon Malakhov's arrival, he was officially described as a cotton expert, and prior to 1932 he was the assistant director of the Soviet Textile Import group in Alexandria. Source states that Malakhov is a "peasant type," with little culture or education. [REDACTED] Comment. Malakhov is by no means illiterate, and has an understanding of commercial affairs in the Middle East.) He has been a Communist for many years and has reportedly attained his present position as a result of his devotion to the Party. According to source, his primary role is that of "watch-dog" of the activities of the Bulgarian, Yugoslav, and Rumanian commercial offices in Alexandria.

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- b. N. Lidemann, assistant to Malakhov. Lidemann, who speaks only Russian, is ostensibly concerned with Soviet shipping. He and his wife live at 21 rue Bolbitine, Camp de Cesar, Alexandria.
- c. Abraham Dvorkin, who is a member of the mission, but does not carry a diplomatic passport. He is a Palestinian Jew whose family is in Tel Aviv; he is related to the Egyptian rabbi, Dvorkin. He lives at No. 19 Place Saad Zaghlul, Alexandria.
- d. Stefan Shpak (Chpak), a member of the mission who has been ordered to assist Malakhov temporarily, although, according to his passport, he is an employee of the Soviet delegation in India. He carries special passport No. 31079, issued on 9 December 1947 in Moscow, with special transit visa No. 23, issued in Moscow on 15 March 1947. Shpak visits the Alexandria cotton marts daily, source states.

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